

SANTA MONICA, CA - Yesterday, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (D-Lakewood) presented a \$250,000 check to the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council to advance a critical study finding innovative and environmentally friendly techniques to more effectively capture stormwater that will minimize pollution on area beaches and maximize its potability. At the check presentation, Congresswoman Sánchez was joined by Congresswoman Diane Watson (D-Los Angeles); Frank Colonna, Long Beach City Councilman and Chairman of the San Gabriel River Watershed Council; and various area water and environmental leaders.

“I am very pleased to have been able to secure funding for such an important study that is finding common sense solutions that will make the L.A. region more environmentally friendly in the future,” said Congresswoman Sánchez.

The federal appropriation of \$250,000 will fund the next phase of the “Los Angeles Basin Water Augmentation Study” being performed by the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council. The study has shown how innovative techniques in building and neighborhood design can capture rain and stormwater runoff, thereby protecting our nearby beaches from pollution carried by stormwater and also increasing our underground supply of local drinking water. The study is seen as playing a key role in helping Southern California become environmentally sustainable for the long term.

Congresswoman Sánchez has led a coalition of ten local Members of Congress (including U.S. Representatives Berman, Millender-McDonald, Napolitano, Roybal-Allard, Loretta Sanchez, Schiff, Sherman, Waxman, and Watson) in successfully seeking federal funding for the study, which is designed to benefit the entire Los Angeles and San Gabriel River basins.

“This study is a great example of inter-agency and inter-governmental cooperation. Water-related issues are going to be among our biggest priorities in California in the future and I am glad that Congresswoman Sánchez was able to get funding for such a forward thinking initiative,” said Rebecca Drayse, Project Manager for TreePeople.

The innovative and often simple designs being studied include those for parking lots, street landscaping, and residential yards to allow rain and stormwater runoff to naturally percolate into local aquifers instead of flowing into storm drains and on to the ocean.